

APPENDIX D: WORKING SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Overarching Goal: The goal of all of the 2004 working sessions was to allow people from a variety of backgrounds and sectors to bring their expertise to bear toward creating a fundamentally different model for thinking about and addressing poverty. All sessions explored topic-specific content using a common design structure to ensure that results can be rolled up consistently to inform a cohesive change strategy.

Session 1: Redefining Poverty (August 18-19, 2004)

Session Objectives: This working session had five objectives:

- 1) Share a compelling case for change and articulate a vision and set of principles upon which to build strategies to fundamentally change the way we think about and address poverty as a nation.
- 2) Catalog the current definitions and measures of poverty and assess their utility in moving toward the stated vision.
- 3) Identify some key elements of a desired future state (i.e. what it would look like in the ideal) from the perspectives of the individual, the community, and society. These elements go beyond the snapshot of the conditions of poverty (based on the income/consumption definition) to the individual, social, and economic capacities and dynamics that are more fully representative of the causes of poverty and the solutions to it.
- 4) Identify some of the areas in which work must be undertaken (i.e. change levers) in order to close the gap between existing and the ideal states.
- 5) Brainstorm preliminary strategies for filling the gaps.

Session 2: Community-Based Solutions (August 25-26, 2004)

Session Objectives: This working session had five objectives:

- 1) Share a compelling case for change and articulate a vision and set of principles upon which to build strategies to fundamentally change the way we think about and address poverty as a nation.
- 2) Review key themes of current community-based efforts to build capacity of low-income individuals, families, and communities to compare/contrast with the stated vision.
- 3) Identify some key elements of a desired future state that describe what it would look like in the ideal for communities to 1) develop local leadership; 2) create community engagement; and 3) successfully implement 'whole-community' strategies for addressing poverty.
- 4) Identify some of the areas in which work must be undertaken (i.e. change levers) in order to close the gap between existing and the ideal states.
- 5) Brainstorm preliminary strategies for filling the gaps.

Session 3: Family Economic Security (September 7-8), 2004

Session Objectives: This working session had five objectives:

- 1) Share a compelling case for change and articulate a vision and set of principles upon which to build strategies to fundamentally change the way we think about and address poverty as a nation.
- 2) Review the current state relative to four key areas that impact family economic security—basic income (including work supports), acquisition of growth and assets, mainstream goods and services, and public policy and compare/contrast with the stated vision.
- 3) Identify some key elements of a desired future state for each of the four areas (i.e. what it would look like in the ideal) from the perspectives of the individual and the community.
- 4) Identify some of the areas in which work must be undertaken (i.e. change levers) in order to close the gap between existing and the ideal states.
- 5) Brainstorm preliminary strategies for filling the gaps.

Session 4: Maximizing Technology (September 14-15), 2004

Session Objectives: This working session had five objectives:

- 1) Share a compelling case for change and articulate a vision and set of principles upon which to build strategies to fundamentally change the way we think about and address poverty as a nation.
- 2) Review key areas of the current technological state and its impact on individual and community impoverishment in areas such as access to technology, use of technology in providing services to individuals, use of technology for integrating information for community-based strategies, the use of technology for connecting individuals to resources, etc. and compare/contrast with the stated vision.
- 3) Identify some key elements of a desired future state relative to technology (i.e. what it would look like in the ideal) from the perspectives of the individual, the community, and service delivery (e.g. access to and availability of technology for individuals in connecting to resources, improving education, and strategic use of information technology for communities).
- 4) Identify some of the areas in which work must be undertaken (i.e. change levers) in order to close the gap between existing and the ideal states.
- 5) Brainstorm preliminary strategies for filling the gaps.